

REMARKS

Claims 27, 28, 30 and 32-44 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 27, 28 and 30 are amended to place these claims in allowable condition. Claims 1-26, 29 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32-44 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Support for the added claims is provided in at least Figures 1-4 and related text of the present specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 27, 28 and 30 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 27, 28 and 30 to include the subject matter of independent claim 1 and any intervening claim. Applicants submit that these claims are now in immediate condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 18, 19, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,763,965 issued to Bader. These claims are canceled and this rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 12, 14-16, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bader in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,206 to Chitayat. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bader in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,551,449 to Tsuboi. These claims are canceled and these rejections are now moot.

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New Claims

Claims 32-44 are added for the Examiner's consideration. These features are shown in Figures 1-4. These features are not taught by the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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